

to go into any bay, though she would be able to send a boat ; and unless there was good reason, she could not venture to take the south-east coast. On the north-east coast there is Christmas Harbour, which, I believe, is upon the whole abandoned. The next most likely place is Port Palliser, and Capt. Cooper said that good telescopes should be used to see if there were any astronomers at that place. Then, coming towards the extremity of the island, they pass Accessible Bay, at the entrance to which is Betsy Cove. Betsy Cove has been mentioned as a good harbour, and there is an Admiralty chart of it. I mentioned that as the most likely place, and I have no doubt Capt. Cooper will send a boat in there ; but after Betsy Cove the coast turns round towards the south, and if my party should have chosen this part of the island, it seems not unlikely they will be missed ; but I thought it desirable to enter into these details, and to tell you what the chance is. I think, Sir, with this, I will close the information I have now to give.

*Addendum to the Astronomer Royal's Statement on November 13.*

Telegraphic connection (interrupted at Porthcurno and Alexandria) has now been made on four evenings between Greenwich and Mokattam, and I have reason to hope that the determination of longitude will prove perfectly successful. Nothing can exceed the attention to our wishes exhibited by the Eastern Telegraph Company, who, with much derangement of their own business, have given every facility for our communications.

At the last despatch, Capt. Abney had arrived at Thebes (Leuksor). Every thing is in full work.

Dr. Auwers and Mr. Döllén had arrived at Cairo, but had not definitely fixed on a station.

At Honolulu, every thing is in full work ; and Capt. Tupman specially remarks, that the Janssen apparatus succeeds perfectly. Prof. Forbes was to sail for Owhyhee on November 1.

1874, November 27.

*The French Expeditions for the Observation of the Transit of Venus.*

(Communicated by the Secretaries.)

We are glad to hear that communications have been received by the Academy of Sciences from the French Expeditions sent to observe the approaching transit of *Venus*. The following is translated from a notice inserted in the *Bulletin Hebdomadaire de l'Association Scientifique de France*, No. 364, 1874, October 25.

"M. Bouquet de la Grye, who has charge of the expedition to Campbell Island, arrived with it at Sydney on August 22. The commodore on the station was very obliging to our officers.

Largely provided with everything, they had only to thank the English authorities for their kind attention; but it might have been otherwise, and the Expedition has escaped a great misfortune. After the cargo was landed, a fire broke out in the fore-part of the 'Yeddo,' which brought out the Expedition, and the identical portion of the vessel in which all the astronomical packages had been stored was burnt.

"M. Fleuriais, who left France on July 5, arrived at Shanghai on August 18. His astronomical stores appear to have suffered no injury either from transshipment or the sea voyage. M. Fleuriais left immediately for Tien-tsin. The presence of a French despatch-boat, the 'Couleuvre,' will serve as a protection to him.

"M. Mouchez writes from Mauritius, where he intended to remain a week to rate his chronometers. The naturalists attached to the Expedition have profited by the delay to make an excursion into the interior of the island. Our officers have established excellent relations with Lord Lindsay, who has left England provided with a considerable equipment, and who will observe the transit at Mauritius. The astronomer of Lord Lindsay (Mr. Gill) has offered to M. Mouchez the loan of twenty chronometers, to enable him to make an exact determination of the longitude of St. Paul with respect to Mauritius.

"M. Mouchez expected to leave on September 2 for his station on the island of St. Paul. We have already remarked that this island is only a volcanic rock, wild, uncultivated, and lost in the great Southern Ocean. From the information gathered by M. Mouchez, the general state of the weather in those regions, especially in December, is deplorable. But he says that he shall find great facilities for the establishment of his Observatory from the wood cast ashore by the sea from the numerous shipwrecks of which this island is the witness. What a prospect, and what resources!"

---

*On the Observations of Flora, made with a view of determining the Solar Parallax. By Dr. Galle.*

(Extract from a Letter to the Astronomer Royal.)

"As I availed myself of your kindness last year, in recommending that observations should be made of the planet *Flora*, in the Southern hemisphere, with the view of using the same for a determination of the value of the solar parallax, I could not omit briefly to inform you that these observations have been carried out accordingly, and have furnished a very satisfactory result.

"Thanks to the co-operation of three Southern Observatories